

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 0335

MANILA FOR CODEL THURMOND

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (THURMOND, STROM AND SCOTT, WILLIAM L)

SUBJ: VISIT OF SENATORS THURMOND AND SCOTT

1. DURING VISIT JAKARTA JANUARY 5-7, SENATORS THURMOND AND SCOTT RECEIVED COUNTRY TEAM BRIEFING AND CALLED ON PRESIDENT SUHARTO, FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK, DEFENSE MINISTER PANGGABEAN, MINING MINISTER SADLI, AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF PARLIAMENT DOMO PRANTO. ALSO HAD OPPORTUNITY MEET OTHER INDONESIANS, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, FONDEP OFFICIALS, JOURNALISTS, OFFICIALS OF NATIONAL DEFENSE INSTITUTE(LEMHANAS) AND NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AT RECEPTION HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR JANUARY 6.

2. SENATORS MAIN INTEREST EXPRESSED IN BOTH CALLS AND SOCIAL CONTACTS WITH GOI OFFICIALS, WAS IN URGING THAT INDONESIA AND OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES PLAY MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM. TYPICAL OF EXCHANGES WAS THAT WITH DEFENSE MINISTER PANGGABEAN IN WHICH SENATOR SCOTT POINTED OUT ONE FACTOR IN DIMINISHING CONGRESSIONAL ENTHUSIASM FOR FOREIGN AID WAS ABSENCE OF STRONG SUPPORT BY OTHER NATIONS FOR GOVERNMENTS IMMEDIATELY FACING COMMUNIST THREAT. HE
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NOTED THAT NATIONS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA FAR MORE THREATENED

THAN US BY POSSIBLE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER IN INDOCHINA AND THAT THEREFORE IMPORTANT FOR EACH NATION TO DO WHAT IT COULD TO SUPPORT SOUTH VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIANS. GENERA PANGGABEAN RESPONDED THAT INDONESIA SAW COMMUNIST MENACE MORE IN TERMS OF SUBVERSION AND INFILTRATION (CITING NORTHERN KALIMANTAN INSURGENTS) THAN OF MILITARY THREAT. WITHIN LIMITED RESOURCES GOI TRYING STRENGTHEN OTHER SEA NATIONS AND HAD CONTRIBUTED KNOWLEDGE FROM ITS OWN EXPERIENCE HELPFUL TO OTHER NATIONS FIGHTING SUBVERSION. AT MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK (REPORTED JAKARTA'S 253 AND 190) SENATORS MADE SIMILAR POINTS CONCERNING INDOCHINA.

3. SENATORS ALSO SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN INDONESIAN ECONOMY, PARTICULARLY PETROLEUM SECTOR, AND IN INVESTMENT CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS. THESE TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED AT COUNTRY TEAM BRIEFING, WHICH ALSO COVERED ROLE OF INDONESIAN ARMED FORCES AND US ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. (SEPARATE DLG BRIEFING ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE DROPPED AT SENATOR'S REQUEST). SENATORS INQUIRED AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT TERMS OF PRODUCTION-SHARING CONTRACTS GOVERNING OPERATIONS OF US OIL COMPANIES. THEY ALSO ASKED ABOUT CIVIL LIBERTIES UNDER MILITARY REGIME, GOI SUPPORT FOR DEMILY PLANNING, AND RELATIVE SIZE OF US AND THIRD-COUNTRY ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE EFFORTS.

4. AT CONCLUSION, SENATOR THURMOND ACKNOWLEDGED TO AMBASSADR CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF MAGNITUDE OF INDONESIA'S DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS AND APPRECIATION OF LIMITATIONS ON INDONESIAN CAPABILITY TO SUPPORT SEA REGIONAL DEFENSE EFFORTS OR PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH VIETNAM. HE SAID HE HAD NOT EXPECTED AS MUCH "THIRD WORLD" ORIENTATION IN INDONESIA AS HE FOUND IN HIS TALKS. BOTH SENATORS SAID THEY WERE IMPRESSED WITH INDONESIA'S POTENTIAL AND IMPORTANCE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH US, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD

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